Upliftment of handloom weavers

412. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that handloom weavers in the country are living in poverty and in debt;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide succour to them to uplift them from their plight? THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S.ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) No such reports have been received from the State Governments. However, time to time, the Government of India is implementing a number of schemes to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading their skills and providing infrastructural input and marketing support. During the 11th Five Year Plan, the following schemes have been formulated for upliftment of handloom weavers:—

(i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme
(ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme
(iii) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme
(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

Tough competition for textile export from neighbouring countries

413. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is facing a tough competition from small countries like Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the year-wise details of textile-export of India in comparison to small neighbour countries during the last three years;

(c) whether Government has identified the factors responsible for growth in textile sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Apart from China, Indian textile exports is also facing competition from countries like Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam and Pakistan. The year-wise details of textiles and clothing export of India in comparison to neighbour countries during the last three years are given below:

(Value in US $ million)

Name of exporting countries	2004		2005		2006	
	Textiles	Clothing	Textiles	Clothing	Textiles	Clothing
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
China	33428	61856	41050	74163	48683	95388
India	7009	6632	8462	9212	9330	10192
Pakistan	6125	3026	7087	3604	7469	3907
Indonesia	2961	4285	3353	4959	3605	5699

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Vietnam	534	4430	—	4838	—	—
Cambodia	—	1981	—	2193	—	2675
Bangladesh	597	6296	696	7751	—	—
Sri Lanka	149	2776	136	2874	154	3046

Source: World Trade Organisation.

(c) and (d) In the liberalised trade regime, the growth of textiles sector can be achieved with (i) lower production cost on account of lower power & capital costs (ii) higher productivity of labour (iii) better port and transport facilities (iv) better supply chain management (v) flexible labour laws (vi) better exchange rate in terms of dollar and euro (vii) brand promotion (viii) big foreign investments, etc.

Scheme for unemployed textile workers due to rupee appreciation

414. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to frame a scheme, especially for textile workers, who lost their jobs due to slump inexports due to appreciation in rupee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) While there has been an impact on exports of textiles goods on account of the appreciation of the rupee as compared to the US dollar, this impact has been mainly felt in the privately owned garmenting sector. Some measures have been introduced to offset this impact. These measures, *inter-alia,* include (i) Increase in Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates by 3% for textiles (including handloom), readymade garments, handicrafts; (ii) Increase in duty drawback rates across product categories; and (iii) Reduction in pre and post shipment credit by 2%, and ECGC cover premium by 10 per cent. It is expected that the exporting units will take advantage of these incentives.

Relief package for handloom industry

415. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to provide relief package to handloom industry which is badly affected by rupee appreciation of nearly 20 per cent during the current year;

(b) if so, the details of relief provided, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to provide relief to exporters affected by the appreciation of rupee against the U.S. dollar, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has announced the Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) rates by hiking 3% in 9 identified sectors which includes textiles (including handlooms).

(c) Does not arise.